

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29078

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LA, US, FR
SUBJECT: LAO GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

REF: (A) PARIS 13827, (B) STATE 108075

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE QUOTE GOUVERNEMENT ROYAL DU LAOS LIBRE UNQUOTE, DR. GENERAL GIULANO M. MIOTTI-KONINGSBERG (M-K) AND AN ASSISTANT (POSSIBLY COLONEL FLAVIO F. MOLETTA-CONTESSA) RETURNED TO EMBASSY AUGUST 30 TO "REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF CONVERSATIONS HELD BETWEEN THE EXILE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN PARIS."

2. DR. GENERAL M-K EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT HE HAD CONVEYED TO HIS GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE THE REFUSAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE TO THE LAO GUERRILLO MOVEMENT. HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE US REJECTION THE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE HAD DECIDED TO APPROACH THE CHINESE. HE SAID THE CHINESE "HAVE NOW RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE BOTH ARMS AND FUNDS TO THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, ON AN ABSOLUTELY SECRET BASIS." THE CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE ALLEGEDLY INFORMED THE EXILE REPRESENTATIVE THAT CHINA CURRENTLY HAS FIVE MILITARY DIVISIONS IN AND AROUND
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THE MOUNTAIN BORDER AREAS OF LAOS. HOWEVER, THE CHINESE DO NOT WANT TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN A CONFRONTATION. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, WILLING TO ASSIST WITH ARMS AND FUNDS. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE CHINESE TROOPS IN LAOS HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY THE EXILE GOVERNMENT'S "MOUNTAIN PEOPLE GUERRILLAS."

3. THE DR. GENERAL THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE EXILE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING THE CHINESE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INVOLVE CLOSE TIES WITH CHINA, BOTH NOW AND AFTER A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION. ON THE WHOLE, THE EXILE GOVERNMENT WOULD MUCH PREFER TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THEREFORE, DR. GENERAL M-K EXPLAINED, HE WISHED TO PUT FORWARD A FINAL PROPOSAL TO THE US FOR CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED ARE SMALL, ONLY ABOUT \$20,000 PER MONTH IN EITHER ARMS OR CASH. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT USG RECOGNIZES THE GOVERNMENT OF LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE USG DOES NOT SUPPORT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN LAOS. DR. GENERAL ASKED IF EMBOFF WAS SPEAKING FOR ENTIRE USG OR JUST FOR THE "OFFICIAL POLITICAL LEVELS." EMBOFF SAID HE WAS SPEAKING FOR USG AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING ALL ITS COMPONENTS. VISIBLY UNHAPPY, THE DR. GENERAL THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE FAILURE TO ASSIST THE EXILE GOVERNMENT NOW COULD ONLY WORK AGAINST US INTERESTS, THAT THE EXILE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE AS THE US BUT THAT IF THE US WOULD NOT HELP, IT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT AID FROM THE CHINESE, WITH ALL THAT WOULD IMPLY. EMBOFF, NOTING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO DISCUSS, TERMINATED THE MEETING AND INFORMED THE TWO REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE WAS NO POINT TO ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS OR RELATED

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MATTERS. GROUP LEFT UNHAPPY.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO REFUSE TO SEE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP SHOULD THEY SHOW UP AGAIN.

HARTMAN

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